

Message Text

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ORIGIN SCCT-01

INFO OCT-01 AF-06 EUR-12 NEA-10 ISO-00 SCS-03 SCA-01 DHA-02

CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05

PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIE-00 INRE-00 NSCE-00

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S/S -REWOODS

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O R 130209Z JAN 76

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY KHARTOUM IMMEDIATE

INFO AMEMBASSY ADDIS ABABA

AMCONSUL ASMARA

AMEMBASSY BEIRUT

AMEMBASSY CAIRO

AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS

AMEMBASSY JIDDA

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY ROME

USCINCEUR

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 007740

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINS

SUBJECT: RELEASE OF KAGNEW TWO

REF: KHARTOUM 96

1. REFTTEL REPORTED FONMIN AHMED'S REMARK THAT SUDANESE

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EFFORTS FOR THE RELEASE OF THE REMAINING CAPTIVES WOULD NOT

BE MADE EASIER BY THE DEPARTMENT'S SPOKESMAN JANUARY 9
REPLY TO A QUESTION THAT NO RANSOM WAS PAID OR CONCESSIONS
OF ANY KIND MADE TO OBTAIN THE KAGNEW TWO'S RELEASE.

2. AS THE EMBASSY IS AWARE, THE DEPARTMENT AVOIDS PUBLIC
REITERATION OF THE USG'S NO-NEGOTIATIONS, NO-RANSOM, NO-CON-
CESSIONS POLICY DURING ABDUCTION INCIDENTS, IN ORDER TO
AVOID UNNECESSARY PROVOCATION OF ABDUCTORS WHILE HOSTAGES
REMAIN UNDER THEIR CONTROL. ON THE RELEASE OF AMERICAN
HOSTAGES, HOWEVER, IT HAS BEEN OUR PRACTICE, AS FOR EXAMPLE
ON THE RELEASE OF COL. MORGAN IN BEIRUT LAST JULY, TO STATE
PUBLICLY THAT THE USG MADE NO CONCESSIONS TO OBTAIN SUCH
RELEASE, SO THAT THIS MAY BE EVERYWHERE UNDERSTOOD FOR ITS
DETERRENT VALUE. SUCH A STATEMENT WAS NOT VOLUNTEERED BY
THE DEPARTMENT SPOKESMAN ON THE RELEASE OF THE KAGNEW TWO
BECAUSE OF THE POSSIBLE ADVERSE CONSEQUENCES IT MIGHT HAVE
FOR THE REMAINING CAPTIVES. HOWEVER, THE SPOKESMAN HAD

BEEN BRIEFED THAT BECAUSE OF THE SUSPICIONS THAT ARE ALWAYS
PRESENT WHEN AMERICAN CAPTIVES ARE RELEASED THAT CONCES-
SIONS OF SOME SORT HAVE BEEN MADE TO SECURE THE RELEASE,
HE SHOULD MAKE UNEQUIVOCALLY CLEAR IN RESPONSE TO ANY
QUESTION ON THE SUBJECT THAT NO RANSOM HAD BEEN PAID OR
CONCESSIONS OF ANY KIND MADE. A QUESTION WAS PUT AND THE
SPOKESMAN MADE THE APPROPRIATE CLEAR AND EMPHATIC RESPONSE.

3. THE EMBASSY SHOULD INFORM THE GOS THAT WE ARE CONFIDENT
IT WILL APPRECIATE THE IMPORTANCE THE USG ATTACHES TO ITS
NO-NEGOTIATIONS, NO-RANSOM, NO-CONCESSIONS POLICY NOT
ONLY BEING STRICTLY FOLLOWED IN ABDUCTIONS OF AMERICANS
ABROAD BUT ALSO OF THAT POLICY'S BEING EVERYWHERE BELIEVED
AND RESPECTED. THIS APPLIES TO THE ELF AND PLF NO LESS
THAN TO OTHER ORGANIZATIONS OR GROUPS WHICH KIDNAP, OR
MAY BE TEMPTED TO KIDNAP, AMERICANS IN THE HOPE OF BLACK-
MAILING THE USG INTO RANSOM OR OTHER CONCESSIONS. THE ELF
AND PLF NOT ONLY CONTINUE TO HOLD THREE AMERICANS BUT THEY
ALSO, AS THE ELF RECENTLY DEMONSTRATED WITH ITS SEIZURE OF
MICHALKE, CONTINUE TO POSE A VERY REAL THREAT TO OTHER
AMERICANS IN ERITREA. WE REGRET IF THE PUBLIC CLARIFICA-
TION WE CONSIDERED IT NECESSARY TO MAKE, IN RESPONSE TO A
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NEWSMAN'S QUERY, THAT NO RANSOM OR OTHER CONCESSIONS WERE
MADE TO THE ELF FOR THE RELEASE OF THE KAGNEW TWO HAS COM-
PLICATED SUDANESE EFFORTS ON BEHALF OF THE REMAINING CAP-
TIVES. WE EARNESTLY HOPE THAT IN RECOGNITION OF THE
FACTORS ADDUCED ABOVE, WE CAN CONTINUE TO COUNT ON SUDAN'S
VALUED AND MUCH APPRECIATED ASSISTANCE FOR THE RELEASE OF
THE REMAINING THREE CAPTIVES. KISSINGER

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